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BARRAGA: NEWS FROM THE 11TH DISTRICT

BARRAGA: THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING OF THE REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON TAXATION AND BUDGET CONDUCTED IN WEST ISLIP



Shown above L-R; Suffolk County Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr; Suffolk County Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey; Suffolk County Legislator Tom Barraga; Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore; Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi and Councilman Steve Flotteron.

West Islip, N.Y., The first public hearing by the Republican Task Force on Taxation and Budget was recently held in West Islip at the American Legion Hall on Union Boulevard. The Hearing conducted by Legislator Barraga, Chairman of the Task Force, listened as more than a dozen speakers offered suggestions and recommendations to stabilize the County tax base while at the same time continuing to provide the needed services that County constituents deserve.

Among those presenting were Joe DeCarlo, President of the West Islip Association. Mr. DeCarlo spoke about three big tax items – County (Police) School (Teachers) and Town (local services) and suggested that a commission be established to study the feasibility of determining a tax rate with a fixed immovable percentage to replace the County property tax and gradually move towards a flat county gross income tax to fund County Government Operations.

Robert Schaefer, Commissioner of MacArthur Airport testified to the various improvements that have been made at the airport and the need of support to attract other major airlines to run flights out of MacArthur Airport.

Andrea Vecchio Director Suffolk County Tax PAC and member of Long Islanders for Educational Reform discussed the Comprehensive Mandate relief bill introduced by New York State Assemblyman Michael J. Fitzpatrick (R,C,I) of the 8th District.

Donna Periconi President of the Bay Shore Chamber of Commerce passionately spoke about better planning and protection of Long Island's Downtown areas and businesses.

This is the first of several public hearings that will be held in different locations throughout Suffolk County in the next few months by Republican County Legislators. "Many of our constituents are having an extremely difficult time from an economic prospective. We must find a way to continue to stabilize and reduce County taxes" said Barraga.

The second Public Hearing on Budget and Taxation will be held on Wednesday, April 16th 2014 from 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Tordik Diederich-Duffield Post No. 4927 located at 31 Horseblock Road, Centereach, N.Y. The event will be hosted by Legislator Tom Muratore. For additional information please contact Legislator Muratore's office at 631-854-9292 or Legislator Barraga's office at 631-854-4100.